



SERVICE AVIATION

"WHERE THE WIND'S LIKE A WHETTED KNIFE—": Seafires and a Sea Otter on the flight-deck of H.M.S. "Vengeance," with destroyers in attendance. The Sea Otter serves as an A.S.R. machine.

Appointments

THE Air Ministry announces the following appointments: Air Marshal Sir George Pirie, K.B.E., C.B., M.C., D.F.C., as Inspector-General of the Royal Air Force, with effect from January 1, 1948, vice Air Chief Marshal Sir Norman H. Bottomley, K.C.B., C.I.E., D.S.O., A.F.C., who is being placed on the retired list at his own request.

A.V-M. John Whitworth Jones, C.B., C.B.E., to be Air Officer Commanding, Air Headquarters, Malaya.

A.V-M. John Denis Breakey, C.B., A.F.C., to be Air Officer in Charge of Administration, Bomber Command.

Air Marshal Sir George Pirie was appointed Air Commanding-in-Chief, Air Command, South-East Asia (now known as Air Command, Far East) on April 30, 1946, and was formerly deputy Air Commander-in-Chief, Air Command, South-East Asia, from June, 1945. Prior to that he was for two years Director-General of Organization at the Air Ministry, following a short period as Director of War Organization. From Sept., 1941, until April, 1943, he was Air Officer in charge of Administration at R.A.F. Headquarters, Middle East, after having been for nearly four years Air Attache at Washington.

Air Chief Marshal Sir Norman Bottomley has been Inspector-General of the Royal Air Force since January, 1947, and was formerly A.O.C.-in-C., Bomber Command, succeeding Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir Arthur Harris in this post in September, 1945. Prior to that he was Deputy Chief of the Air Staff from August, 1943, and was formerly Assistant Chief of the Air Staff (Operations) and

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Deputy Chief of the Air Staff. Before going to the Air Ministry to take up this appointment in 1941 he was A.O.C. No. 5 Group, Bomber Command, for six months, and was previously Senior Air Staff Officer at Bomber Command Headquarters from Nov., 1938.

A.V-M. Jones was until recently Director-General of Organization at the Air Ministry to which post he was appointed in June, 1945. He was previously Assistant Deputy Chief of Air Staff, South-East Asia Command, from Nov., 1943, and was formerly Air Officer Commanding No. 9 (Fighter) Group and No. 84 Group (2nd Tactical Air Force), in turn. From February, 1941, until towards the end of 1942 he was Director of Fighter Operations at the Air Ministry, where he had previously served for several years in the Directorate of Intelligence.

A.V-M. Breakey was A.V-M. Jones's predecessor as Air Officer Commanding at Air Headquarters, Malaya, where he was posted in October, 1945, after having been A.O.C. No. 222 Group in Air Command, South-East Asia, for a short period. Previously he was Assistant Chief of Air Staff (Technical Requirements) from April, 1943, and before that he was Director of Operational Requirements at the Air Ministry for two years after having served since September, 1937, in the Directorate of Intelligence at the Air Ministry.

New A.O.C. in East Africa

AIR COMMODORE ALAN GEORGE BISHOP, C.B.E., A.F.C., who has been Air Officer Commanding, Air Headquarters, Italy, since March, 1947, has succeeded Air Cdre. N. A. P. Pritchett at A.O.C. Air Headquarters, East Africa. In the recent war he served in the Far East before being taken prisoner by the Japanese. Air Comdre. Pritchett has been appointed Director of Manning at the Air Ministry.

A Naval Job

THE Fireflies which carried out the strike on the derelict U-190, depicted in *Flight* of December 4th last, belonged to No. 18 Carrier Air Group, Royal Canadian Navy, and not to the R.C.A.F., as stated. A member of the group points out that, in any case, Fireflies are not operated by the R.C.A.F.

Lord Portal Joins Benevolent Fund

MARSHAL OF THE ROYAL AIR FORCE, Lord Portal of Hungerford, formerly Chief of Air Staff, has joined the Council of the R.A.F. Benevolent Fund as Deputy Chairman. He succeeds Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan who has retired after serving on the Council since 1920. Dame Helen has been elected a Vice-President of the Fund.

Air Chief Marshal Sir John Glessor, formerly an ex-officio member of the Council in his capacity of Air Member for Personnel, has been re-elected during his tenure of office as Commandant of the Imperial Defence College. Other new ex-officio members are Air Marshal Sir Arthur Sanders, on appointment as Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, British Air